

NEWS

#localandproud

Man is treated after house fire

A MAN was treated for smoke inhalation following a kitchen fire.

Three fire crews attended the blaze at a house in Waterloo Road, Haslington, at 5.41pm on Sunday evening.

A spokeswoman for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service said they also used a large fan to ventilate the property.

Local and Proud

DELIVERING THE NEWS:
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Philip Hammond at Sentinel
HQ. Picture: Steve Bould



TONIGHT

★ ★ ★

£76M*

JACKPOT

★ ★ ★

LOSING YOUR KEYS THOUGH, NIGHTMARE



NICER PROBLEMS TO HAVE

*Estimated. Rules and Procedures apply. Players must be 16+.

'Industrial plan helps economy to work for all'

Chancellor at Sentinel HQ to reveal 'hands-on' strategy



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CHANCELLOR Philip Hammond says the Government's new 'hands on' approach to industry will mean a more prosperous future for Stoke-on-Trent.

Mr Hammond believes the city voted strongly in favour of Brexit last year partly due to residents feeling left behind by the country's economic progress.

But the Chancellor said the Government's new interventionist industrial strategy would address these concerns by helping Stoke-on-Trent firms succeed and grow.

The strategy has 10 priorities, including investing in science and research, developing skills and upgrading infrastructure.

Mr Hammond, who visited *The Sentinel's* offices yesterday, said the Conservatives saw the upcoming Stoke-on-Trent Central by-election as an opportunity to make the case for this approach.

And he dismissed Labour and Ukip – the main contenders for the seat – as 'dysfunctional' and 'irrelevant' respectively.

Mr Hammond said: "The referendum was primarily about people's view on

Britain's future relationship with the EU...but also a more general sense of discontent about the way our economy functions.

"This is a country with strong economic growth and dynamic industrial sectors, but not all areas of the country are seeing the benefits. Let's be honest, this is one of the areas that feels very strongly that some of the progress of the last couple of decades has passed it by.

"We've got to explain with our industrial strategy how we're going to address that. How we're going to make sure we deliver an economy that works, not just for everyone, but for every region and city.

"The industrial strategy is a hands-on engagement by Government with industry.

"It's about Government actively engaging to drive the bits of our economy that are most competitive."

Mr Hammond rejected claims it was years of austerity that had led to Stoke-on-Trent's strong Brexit vote. He added: "I think most people are realistic. They understand that you can't live beyond your means. I suspect most people in this city will also think there are areas in public spending where we can cut waste."

Most political pundits believe the Stoke-on-Trent Central by-election will be a two-horse race between Labour and Ukip.

Tristram Hunt formally resigned as MP for the

constituency yesterday, with Labour moving the writ for the by-election, which will take place on February 23.

Mr Hammond claimed the election would be a 'great opportunity' for the Conservatives to set out their stall, and poured scorn on the two favourites for the seat.

He said: "The Labour Party that is so dysfunctional, with a leadership that is so discredited and disorientated, and a leader who believes we should maintain freedom of movement. A Labour Party that is in such a state that one of its brightest and its best young MPs is forced out.

"On the other hand, we've got Ukip – now an irrelevance. Ukip was a single-issue campaigning party. We've settled that, the British people have decided we're leaving the EU. What the country now needs is a Government that can make that happen."

Sara Williams, left, chief executive of Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, welcomed the Government's new approach to industry, but said it would need to include cities such as Stoke-on-Trent.

She said: "Previous Government interventions have focused on big cities like Manchester and Birmingham, so there needs to be more support for smaller cities.

"But I think if we talk about Stoke-on-Trent being 'left behind', there's a danger we will talk down the city.

"There are lots of businesses here doing very well, despite not getting as much support from the Government."

